
NORTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thursday, June 6, 2013
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Wedgwood Presbyterian Church (8008 – 35th Ave. NE)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to Order: 7:20 p.m.

Introductions: Steve Wilkins, UDCC; Barbara Krieger, PBRPCC; Patrick McKenna, WCC; Jeannie Hale, LLC; Barbara Quinn, UPCC; Lynn Ferguson, WNCA; Gail Chiarello, HHCC; Nancy Bolin, VRCC; Tony Provine, RBCA; Gabrielle Gerhard, WNCA; Matt Hoehnen, RNA; Karen Ko; Jenny Frankl

Guests: Carol Arnold, Friends of Yesler Swamp; Jean Colley, Friends of Yesler Swamp; Jan Sutter; Friends of Batelle/Talarus; Alex Pedersen, CM Burgess's Office; Edna Shim, SCH; Betsy McLaughlin, UW; Martha Nueman, SPU

Secretary for the night: Jenny Frankl

Announcements:

Approval of Minutes: Amendment to the Date (should be May 2). Tony motioned amended correction, Barbara seconded – unanimously approved

Public Comment:

Burke-Gilman Multi-modal Connector - Betsy McLaughlin, UW Transportation Services
1.7 miles of the BGT runs through UW campus. In an effort to make the trail safer, more efficient, UW is seeking 12 million in federal funding (TIGER grant) to widen the path and separate bicyclists and pedestrians. They applied on June 3rd, but are trying to get as much public support as possible for the project. They are encouraging community members to endorse the project on line at: www.uw.edu/burke-gilman

There are three phases to the project. The first phase, from U-Bridge to Rainier Vista, has funding. UW is still seeking funding for Phase II & III. For more info (see attached handout)

CNC Report:

- CNC now has a FB page, which will link to other district council FB pages.
- Candidates Forum on June 26th. They are requesting each district council submit three questions.
- CNC did not feel that their concerns were heard or listened to re: the NMF Large Project Fund review
- CNC is calling for input/guidance from district councils on what to include in annual budget letter. Nancy recommended that instead of creating a long list of priorities, that CNC focus on three or four items.

Agenda Items:

King Conservation District-Seattle Community Partnership Grant

Martha Neuman, Seattle Public Utilities

The King Conservation District - Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program is a joint effort between the King Conservation District (KCD) and the City of Seattle. This partnership funding program supports projects that achieve both KCD and the city priorities for natural resource improvement

- Please see handout & more info is on their website at:
http://www.kingcd.org/pro_gra.htm
- \$360K available to support natural resource projects in Seattle/King County.
- Four funding priorities include: Education and Outreach, Capacity Building, Pilot and Demonstration Projects, and Direct Improvement of Natural Resource Conditions.
- Municipalities and COMMUNITY GROUPS are eligible. Community-driven projects are eligible for up to \$50K. No match.
- Projects on private land are especially encouraged.

Introduction of Yesler Swamp

Carol Arnold, Friends of Yesler Swamp

- Yesler Swamp is located at the corner of NE 41st and Surber Drive, is barely visible from the street, just beneath the tangle of blackberry vines. The Swamp hides the outlet of historic Yesler Creek. A rough trail begins at the East parking lot of the Center for Urban Horticulture, winds through the edge of the swamp and returns to the parking lot.
- Friends of Yesler Swamp is seeking to create a well-designed trail to protect the wildlife and provide access for removal of invasive blackberry and ivy. The trail will follow a path away from the water with possible side paths and a viewing point near the water.
- They received a NMF Small & Simple grant (\$19K) to do the design work for the trail system in 2011, then applied for a NMF Large Project Fund grant (\$64K) to fund the first of three phases of the project.
- They intend to apply for the KCD grant (\$48K) and is requesting the endorsement of NEDC

Talarus Landmark Designation

Janice Sutter, Friends of Batelle/Talarus

- FTB is working with Historic Seattle to get a landmark designation for Talarus/Batelle. The property is owned by the McCaws, but the intellectual rights were sold a year ago.
- Talarus Institute is 18-acres of green space & ponds, but also many older buildings. The area is open to the public. The property is coded as "instituted for advance study" in the land code, and if developed as something else, it would be zoned SF5000.
- Developers have applied for a text amendment to increase zoning height to commercial and multi-family. A landmark designation would guarantee that historic preservation folks have a seat at the table with the developers of this property
- See action for motion. Lynn recommended that they get the application in soon, so any decisions or actions on the part of developers could be put on hold while application is being processed.

Housekeeping:

NEDC Candidate Forum

- Rescheduled for Wednesday, July 17th at Seattle Musical Theatre from 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- So far, three candidates have confirmed: Harrell, Steinbruck, Kate Martin)
- Planning committee is looking for ideas on format
- **Tony will reach out to North District Council**
- Potential questions for the Northeast and CNC forums are:
 - SR 520

- Sidewalks in the northend
- City employees unresponsive to community members – what does mayor intend to do to demand responsiveness from City employees (esp. Parks)
- Navy/Parks – Toxic Clean Up – want to know why this information was covered up and how to prevent similar situations in the future.

Navy Clean Up

- Navy will begin a \$9 million radioactive removal project in buildings #2 & #27 at Magnuson Park this summer.
- The open house on May 29th invited a lively, heated discussion amongst attendees. Two major points of contention: 1) Navy failed to use proper protocol to alert community of situation, and 2) the cover up.
 - A few months ago, Parks allowed discussion of possibly renovating and locating a school in building #2, knowing full well that the building was unsafe.
- NEDC would like there to be ongoing monitoring of the activity, beyond building #2 and #27.
- Jeannie asked that Lynn begin a letter on behalf of NEDC that would address the contamination, the cover up, and ongoing monitoring moving forward.

Council Bill 117781 – Marijuana Siting & Distribution Legislation

- The bill would allow up to 45 plants in neighborhoods, despite proximity to schools, etc.
- It was expressed that this could open neighborhoods up to more problems and the bill's inconsistency with what is stated in state regulations I-502.
- Currently, the legislation has moved out of committee and will be presented to full council on Monday, June 10th
- Tony made motion for NEDC to send letter asking City Council to defer taking any action until above stated issues were resolved.

Round Robin

- Design Guidelines for the Naval Historic District is in their final round – ending the 3-year process. Magnuson Park Landmark District. Lynn will pass these along to NEDC members.

Decisions Made or Actions Taken:

MOTION: That NEDC support the historic nomination for the 18-acre Battelle/Talaris open space property in Laurelhurst and urge the city council to put the proposed text amendment that would lay the groundwork to upzone the property from single-family to multi-family and/or commercial on hold, until the landmark process is complete, and further that NEDC write letters about this to appropriate departments and the city council.

It is noted that Laurelhurst CC abstained from vote.

Lynn made motion, Barbara Seconded, motion approved.

MOTION: That NEDC support the King Conservation District grant application for the next phase of the Yesler Swamp Restoration and Raised Walkway Project and submit a letter supporting the project.

Note: Funding has already been secured for design, permitting (all complete) preliminary engineering and Phase 1 construction. Phase 2 includes another 200 feet of raised walkway and mitigation in areas 2, 3, and 4.

MOTION: That NEDC write a letter requesting that City Council defer taking any action until discrepancies between state and city statutes are ironed out. An amendment to strike out the Liquor Control Board was made and approved. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.